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AMUSEMENTS TODAY.

Salt Lake—"The Devil's Auction."
 Orpheum—Vaudeville.
 Grand—"The Convict's Daughter."
 Lyric—"A Son's Devotion."

WEATHER FOR SALT LAKE.

Fair.

AN IMPRACTICABLE SCHEME.

Secretary of the Navy Bonaparte contributes to the national gayety an interview in which he favors the election by the people of a boss who shall select candidates for office. This boss, the secretary believes, should be elected annually by the legal voters of his party at a primary at which only that office is in controversy. In other words, Mr. Bonaparte would have the people vote out of their own hands the privilege of selecting candidates for office.

We do not believe the proposition will be taken seriously by any large proportion of the public. The fact is that the people are trying to get away from boss rule instead of into it. In practically every state in the Union there is at least one political boss. Even here in Utah we have one in Senator Smoot. He has never been formally elected to the position, but he holds it just as certainly as if he had.

Just as in the old days in Pennsylvania no Republican could be nominated for an office of importance without the consent of Senator Matthew Stanley Quay, so in Utah no Republican can be nominated without the advice and consent of Senator Reed Smoot. In most of the states the men who are the bosses do not hold office. No Tammany leader, for example, has ever held an office while he was acting as leader. It was enough for him to name the candidates.

We fail to see how a legal boss would help political conditions any. It would be a tremendous power to place in the hands of any individual. He might pick good men for the offices and he might pick bad ones. Certainly the temptation to pick his friends regardless of their individual qualifications would be so strong that only the strongest could resist it.

Secretary Bonaparte's idea will decidedly not do. The people may not have any real power in the selection of candidates, but they surely will insist on preserving the semblance of power.

SEEING THINGS AT NIGHT.

People who see in the recent protest entered by the Japanese in San Francisco against the segregation of Japanese from white children in the public schools an indication of Japan's desire for war with the United States are certainly "seeing" things at night. They are dreaming dreams and observing visions, mostly of the nightmare variety. It may be quite true, as some well informed people say, that Japan is extremely desirous of acquiring the Philippines, but she is not going to do it by means of a war of conquest.

In the nature of things the proposition is out of the question. No nations in the world are more friendly toward than England and the United States. England is Japan's ally. Is it to be supposed for a moment that England will encourage or permit Japan to become involved in a war with this country for the Philippines, or for anything else? Nor can it be believed that Japan is looking for any trouble.

That nation has not yet recovered from the effects of the war with Russia. Her industries are in need of rehabilitation, her people have not yet accustomed themselves to the paths of peace. Besides, the war with Russia has left upon Japan a burden of debt that in itself would act as a deterrent. Japan will go a long way around trouble, instead of going towards it, because even if she insisted on war she could not get the funds with which to finance it.

In the San Francisco school matter the courts may be depended upon to arrive at a satisfactory adjustment. There is no certainty that our treaty with Japan was violated by the segregation order, and if it was it would constitute no occasion for war. The Japs may not be able to remember the financial and moral aid rendered them by the United States, but they cannot forget that in a struggle with this nation they wouldn't have the faintest ghost of a chance to win.

AS TO DENATURED ALCOHOL.

The recent ruling of the commissioner of internal revenue, with the approval of the secretary of the treasury, will cause a shock to many people who had an idea that they could set up little denatured alcohol distilleries of their own without any government supervision. The ruling is that all such distilleries must be erected in accordance with government regulations, and that they are to be under the control of the government at all times.

Some farmers and others have been laboring under the theory that they could turn their surplus potato crops, their beets, their cornstalks and other products from which alcohol can be made, into that fluid pretty much as they make sweet cider from surplus apples. The result of the ruling will, of course, be to greatly reduce the quantity of denatured alcohol to be manufactured for the present. The ruling will, however, be generally accepted as sound.

Alcohol as it comes from the distillery is not denatured. It must be rendered unfit for drinking purposes after it is made. To permit any one to proceed without supervision to manufacture alcohol and trust to his honor to denature it would be to open the doors to frauds of the grossest character and to deprive the government of millions of dollars in internal revenues.

The commissioner points out that in the United States there are today more than 1,000 distilleries manufacturing less than thirty gallons a day of distilled spirits. He says that all the expenses of supervision will be paid by the government, and that in the equipment of the plants the manufacturers will be put to as little expense and trouble as possible. Large plants will not be required, but it is very doubtful if it will be possible to manufacture alcohol and denature it on a small scale at a profit.

THE COFFEE FRAUD.

Six hundred million pounds of so-called blended Mocha and Java coffee are sold in the United States every year. According to the customs statistics just 2,000,000 pounds of Mocha and 10,000,000 pounds of Java are annually imported by American dealers. Unless the balance is smuggled, which most people will admit is hardly possible, many coffee drinkers are drinking an elegant mixture of chicory and other beans under the impression that they are imbibing Mocha and Java.

If the statistics are accurate just one cup of Mocha and Java in fifty is really Mocha and Java. The bulk of our coffee comes from Brazil, though we get a great deal from Mexico and a continually increasing quantity from Porto Rico. A proposition is now on foot, in connection with the national pure food law, to require the roasting of coffee in bond under government supervision. With a government certificate on every can the consumer would be reasonably sure that he was getting the real article.

Dealers say that the Brazilian coffees are as good as any that can be imported. They make the same argument for the Porto Rican and the Mexican products. However that may be the fact remains that the purchaser is entitled to receive exactly what he pays for. He should not be required to pay for Java and Mocha and get Mexican or Porto Rican or Brazilian. Every can should be fairly and honestly labeled.

In a debate the other night the Cleveland Y. M. C. A. came to the conclusion that a multi-millionaire cannot be an honest man. It is quite apparent that nothing is expected from Mr. Rockefeller this year.

Thirty-six million barrels of apples will be sent out from the orchards of the country this year, according to a crop report. And, as usual, the little apples will be found at the bottoms of the barrels.

Statistics show that the railroads of Indiana carried 64,000,000 passengers during the last fiscal year. The authors must be making money—unless they rode on passes.

According to a census taken by the church workers there isn't an infidel in Port Wayne, Indiana. Doesn't that absolutely prove that the world is growing better?

In the light of the recent scandals, every American girl who accepts a titled foreigner as her husband will understand that she takes the goods at her own risk.

The election really wasn't in it for real interest with the fight between Fish and Harriman for control of the Illinois Central.

A woman served on the Madrid police force for thirty years without revealing her sex. Now where's the man who says a woman cannot keep a secret?

The newest invention is a tubeless telescope. There is still nothing unusual, however, about the moneyless man.

The happiest man these days is the chap who absolutely declined to indulge in any election prophecies.

SPORT OF UNOWNED KINGS.

(Puck.)
 "He thinks he's quite a lady-killer."
 "Pooh! He couldn't kill a chicken with that machine."

THE OPTIMISTIC.

(Philadelphia Ledger.)
 Hicks—Yes, indeed, he's always happy when he's looking for work.
 Wicks—Well, what a cheerful disposition. And is he never sad or dependent?
 Hicks—Only when he finds it.

Centre of Pearl Fishing

Minnesota and Its Streams Becoming Noted for Industry

(Minneapolis Tribune.)

Minnesota is getting to be a centre for the pearl-fishing industry. With the steady decline of the pearl fisheries along the lower Mississippi there has been a corresponding increase in those on the upper river between Minneapolis and La Crosse, especially on the Minnesota side of the river. Simultaneously the industry has been gradually extended to other streams and bodies of water within the confines of the state, until at present moment there is hardly a river or lake of any size in the northern or central part of Minnesota that does not have its pearl fisheries.

That pearl fishing is no inconspicuous industry may be seen from the fact that the value of all the fresh-water pearls produced in the United States during 1905 amounted to fully \$5,000,000. Of this amount rather more than a half represents the value of the pearls that were gathered from the streams and lakes in the middle west, the Missouri valley, as it were, in the strictest sense of the name.

Just what the figures were for the total value of the pearls gathered in Minnesota during last year it is impossible to say. It is a safe guess, however, that \$1,000,000 will not cover it, and it is almost as safe to predict that inside of a couple of years the yield of the state's rivers and lakes will more than double in value.

As a matter of fact even if the state's yield does not increase a pound in amount from year to year, the present indications are that the value of it will double within the next few years. The price of fresh-water pearls is unmistakably on the rise, and pearl dealers throughout the country are unanimous in their opinion that the increase in price of 500 to 500 per cent. that has taken place in the last three or four years will be hardly a circumstance to the rise that is due for the next half decade.

Think of a pearl as large as an ordinary marble, with a rarity of coloring that makes it impossible to be matched. Such a pearl—as this was taken out of the Mississippi within a month and has since been sold for about \$70,000—a veritable fortune for William Bates of Red Wing, the lucky finder of the stone.

Without doubt there is not another pearl in existence that will compare with the one that was taken from a Mississippi river clam a few weeks ago. That there are larger pearls in the world goes without saying, and that there are pearls on which a higher market value is set is likewise a truism. Nevertheless, for delicacy of coloring and oddity of the shading the Bates pearl, as it is called, is without a peer.

Pearls found in foreign countries are valued for the evenness of their coloring and the ease with which they can be matched. Thus, it is not an unusual phenomenon to find all the pearls taken from a certain locality are marked exactly alike, and in buying pearls it is to be sure to get a set of other ornaments the principal desideratum is to get stones that match one another closely.

American fresh-water pearls, however, are valued for just the opposite qualities. The coloring, far from being even, is most irregular and in the general run of domestic pearls the rarity of color is the salient characteristic. As for matching American pearls, it is almost impossible to get anything like a resemblance even in two stones, not to speak of the dozens and even scores that enter into the make-up of the most famous necklaces and tiaras.

The Bates pearl, as a typical American one, is remarkable not only for its coloring but also for its wonderful marking. With a net diamond weight of 55 grains, the jewel is perfectly round and absolutely without a flaw. The flesh-colored tinting gives a beautiful lustre to the pearl, while a coquise in the light and almost translucent

parent and translucent when shaded slightly. The old story about the formation of pearls was that they were developed inside the oyster as a protection against grains of sand and other foreign substances that had worked in between the mollusk's body and its shell. Like many another pristine theory in the world of science, this explanation of the reason of the pearl has gone by the board.

The latest view on the subject is right in line with the theory of the ubiquitous germ. In effect it is that the oyster contracts a disease due to the presence of a microscopic insect known as the diatom. This diatom creature infests oyster beds and causes disease among the mollusk inhabitants that undoubtedly yields more valuable results than any other in the whole known realm of therapeutics.

The substance of which pearls are formed is a sort of secretion that is exuded from the disease affected part of the oyster's body. Pearls have exactly the same chemical composition whether they are called fresh water or salt water or whether they are taken from the coast of Australia or out of the Mississippi river at Minneapolis. In all cases they are made up of calcium carbonate, water and a certain quantity, varying in different pearls, of animal matter.

Ten years ago isolated fishermen eked out a hard existence along the lower Mississippi river, especially in Missouri, Illinois and Arkansas. With only the lone pearl hunter toiled at the hardest kind of manual labor, now digging with spade and hoe in the mud in the river bottom, and now dragging a clumsy rake at the stern of a small boat.

Today, according to a recent estimate, there are 10,000 men and women engaged in an industry whose product last year was valued at upward of \$5,000,000. Furthermore, the industry has reached the stage where companies backed with plenty of capital are in the field, and at least one of these companies is equipped with suitable machinery for dredging the river bottom for the pearl-bearing oyster.

Pearl fishing in its inception was an accident and now it is a gamble. The industry had its beginning in the discovery of a few valuable pearls among the tons of clam shells that were annually dug out of the lower Mississippi to supply the demand of the manufacturers of shirt studs and buttons.

At one time a ton of clam shells brought \$8 on the shore and half a ton of shells as the result of a day's work was not unusual for a good man. Then the price dropped as the result of a glutted market and nothing but the fact that pearls were occasionally found among the shells kept the shell industry from petering out completely. At the present time the shell industry is a side issue. The up and down, too, who are to be seen along the whole length of the river between St. Paul and Prairie du Chien industriously dredging for the hard-shelled mollusks are pearl hunters first and shell gatherers afterward.

They can get from \$2 to \$3 a ton for the shells, but they can get from \$3 to \$5 an ounce for the smallest, most imperfect stones—they call them baroque—down to the river and they can make fabulous prices for the best pearls.

Any fisherman without regard to his skill or previous experience stands a good chance of "striking it rich" at any time by bringing up a pearl of great price. In fact, that is where the gamble comes in. William Bates, he of the \$70,000 stone of recent finding, fished for several seasons with just ordinary luck, and then he gave added zest to the game by bringing up the grandfather of all the Mississippi pearls.

engineer, who was born on a stock ranch in California and brought up as a cowboy, has a unique record in that at the early age of three-and-twenty he stole a battleship. He had been before the mast, perishing in the South seas, and, scenting further adventure, he threw in his lot with a revolutionary leader, and aided by a boat's crew, contrived to steal the war vessel Huascar from Peru.

In her he committed piracy on the high seas by stopping a British tramp steamer, with the result that he had to fight H. M. S. Shah. He was badly beaten, but escaped, only to find it necessary to surrender to the ruling government. His next expedition, made in partnership with the revolutionary leader, ended in the discovery of the famous Magellan treasure—\$2,000,000 in a sunken Spanish galleon of the seventeenth century, spoil promptly confiscated by a schooner sent by the Argentine government, whose captain, Mr. De Hora, entered a little later at the head of 200 cowboys from the Rio Negro. It was he also who led Colonel North's exploring expedition from Brazil to Ecuador. Thus a nature followed a nature, until the South African war broke out. At that time he was acting as mining engineer in Johannesburg, and, seeing the state the city was likely to get into, he raised a corps of 600 men, and, armed with the latest police force, their work until the arrival of Lord Roberts, when their organizer formally handed over the place to the care of Captain Walter Kirton, also, by the way, of the London command. Surely a difficult record to eclipse.

CLEVER PARAGRAPHS.

Anybody's Money Would Do That.
 (Minneapolis Journal.)
 Mrs. Yerkes is said to be annoyed by the thought that Bill Miner was attracted by her money. It was not her money particularly.

Won't Be Long Now Till He's Broke.
 (Philadelphia Ledger.)

Young Patterson of Chicago has, by starting a Socialist paper, vindicated the sincerity of his belief that he has too much money.

The Czar Has a Feelin' for Him.
 (Chicago Tribune.)
 King Alfonso is weakening under the strain of trying to live up to the requirements of a perpetual crisis.

What's His Pittsburg Connection?
 (Washington Post.)

A San Francisco woman elects to remain in a padded cell rather than live with her millionaire husband.

They Usually Do the Shaking Down.
 (Detroit Free Press.)
 The New York police force is accustomed to being both shaken up and shaken down.

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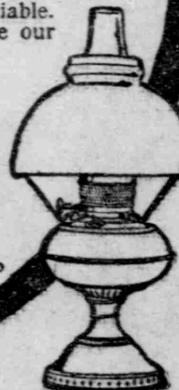
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